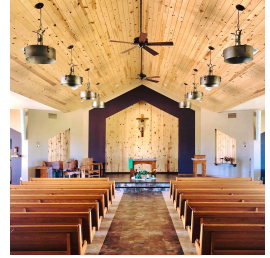




Rapid City NPM Chapter

**Spring Meeting
April 27, 2024**

St. Michael's, Hermosa, SD



Schedule of Events

- 9:30 – 10:00am Registration & Refreshments (*St. Therese, Rapid City*)
- 10:00 – 10:05am Welcome
- 10:05 – 10:15am Morning Prayer (*musicians from St. Michael's*)
- 10:15 – 11:40am Mass Parts Showcase (*featuring choral ensembles from multiple parishes*)
- 11:40 – 12:00pm Sage on Stage (*Chantry Nelson, St. Michael's*)
- 12:05 – 12:40pm Lunch / Business Meeting
- 12:45 – 1:45pm Successful Working Relationships Between Pastor and Music Minister (*panel discussion: music ministers from across the diocese*)
- 1:45 – 2:30pm Selecting Music to Match the Readings of the Day (*Chantry Nelson*)
- 2:30 – 2:45pm Closing Prayer (*Holly Waddell, Blessed Sacrament, Bison*)

To help us secure an accurate lunch count, please RSVP to Carman Timmerman (ph. 605-391-4053, or by email, carmantimmerman@gmail.com), by Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Director's Letter

As I write this, most of us are preparing music which hopefully will help our congregations (and us) more deeply experience Christ's Passion and Resurrection. This is the high point of the Christian year! May the music we make lead all our minds and spirits into holy spaces words can't reach.

Our Spring meeting is just a few weeks away; we are looking forward to it and hope you are too. Keep reading for more details on this and other events later this year. On behalf of Bonnie Josten and myself, we wish you a most blessed Holy Week and Easter season. Thank you for sharing your gift of music with others!

Chantry Nelson
Co-Director, Rapid City NPM Chapter

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Spring Meeting 2024 Preview

The glorious liturgical Easter season will be well underway when we gather once more for our Rapid City NPM Chapter Spring meeting. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27, 2024, at St. Michael's Church in Hermosa. We have a fantastic line-up of programs in store for you!

The day begins with a revisit to a successful program we did several years ago, 'Mass Parts Showcase.' We will feature choral groups and music leaders from several parishes across the diocese, to share with us a mixture of old and new Mass parts arrangements. For the 'old' (familiar) Mass parts, they will share with us ways to add variety of voice and/or instrument to keep the arrangements 'fresh' for the congregation, and for the 'new,' we will enjoy an experience to both listen and sing to newer arrangements that are cropping up in usage. What a great singing and learning opportunity for us all!

St. Michael's own Chantry Nelson will be our featured 'Sage on Stage,' as she shares her music ministry experiences as well as insights to what approaches have worked to produce a strong-singing congregation at St. Michaels.

In the afternoon, we explore two important topics. First, a panel of several diocesan music ministers will lead discussion on 'Successful Working Relationships Between Pastor and Music Minister.' They will share their insights, strategies, and lessons learned from years of experience working with multiple pastors. We then wrap up the day with a refresher on 'Selecting Hymns to Match Readings of the Day.' Chantry Nelson will lead us in discussing the variety of resources, strategies, and considerations for making hymn selections that will solidly connect with the scheduled readings.

An excellent day of singing, learning, and fellowship awaits us! We look forward to seeing you at St. Michael's Church on April 27th!



2024 Winter Meeting Recap

The 2024 NPM Winter Meeting was held January 20th, hosted by St. Therese the Little Flower Church in Rapid City, and contained presentations on **"Prayer in Song,"** details about the ongoing papal **"Synod on Synodality,"** a **"Sage on Stage"** speech by Jackie Schnittgrund, and group discussion of **"The Seven Deadly Sins for Music Ministry Members."**

Fr. Kerry Prendiville of St. Therese, assisted by musicians from Blessed Sacrament Church, led **Opening Prayer** in the sanctuary; musical selections were contemplative/meditative in nature.

This segued nicely into our opening program in the parish hall: **Fr. Kerry** speaking on **"Prayer in Song: A Contemplative Approach."** Father noted that mental, spoken, and sung prayer all differ. Mental prayer involves your mind alone; spoken prayer "involves not only your mind, but also your body." Singing a prayer is even more immersive, because it involves even more of both mind and one's body. (St. Augustine: "He who sings, prays twice.")



Teresa Spiess leads singers Blessed Sacrament singers in Opening Prayer.

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When singers repeat a simple text (continually, as in Taizé, or periodically, as in antiphonal chant), its meaning gradually sinks into each singer's being; and when a congregation does this together, it becomes a way of corporately listening to God. In "spontaneous settings" (retreats, camps, etc.), Father recommends singing sacred rounds (canons) – e.g., repeated "alleluias."



Fr. Kerry Prendiville speaks on "Prayer in Song: A Contemplative Approach."

The speed at which you sing, the instruments you use or don't use (organ, piano, guitar, flute, etc.), and the character of the piece (its melody, its harmony, whether it's in a major or minor key, etc.) all influence the mood that piece puts you in.

The text is also important. In Father's experience, even just reciting "really good poetry," with no music, can lead you into contemplative prayer. But he warned that texts "that instruct or tell us how to live" – such as those in "message" and "call to action" hymns – do *not* tend to lead you into contemplative prayer, no matter how well they may suit other purposes.

Music, text, repetition: all these things, together or alone, said Father, "are the things that move [the congregation's] heart." When we sing music that leads us into contemplative prayer, it also helps us conform our "human mind to God's will"; it can "lead us to Christ in music."

Three hymns Father Kerry recommends are:

- "Adoro te devote" (Thomas Aquinas; tr. G. M. Hopkins as "Godhead Here in Hiding"; tune: *Adoro Te Devote*; chant, mode V). Fr. Kerry: "This [hymn] leads the singer into prayer very quickly."
- "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (*Kingsfold*; minor key)
- "How Can I Keep from Singing" (*Endless Song*; major key).

Next, **Fr. Leo Hausmann of St. Patrick's, Lead** gave a well-researched report on "**Everything I Know About the Synod**" – a.k.a the ongoing XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, a.k.a. the "Synod on Synodality." This synod is split into two General Sessions a year apart (First General Session, October 2023 and Second General Session, October 2024), with a "Diocesan Phase" for parish-level commentary in between. Unprecedentedly, Pope Francis has allowed laypeople to participate in it as *full members*; they not only get to attend the Synod of Bishops, but this October (2024) they'll get to vote alongside them on the final document.

The First General Assembly (Oct. 2023) produced a study summary, "A Synodal Church in Mission" (available <https://www.usccb.org/resources/synodal-church-mission-synthesis-report>). We are currently in the Diocesan Phase, during which our diocese and others around the world pore over this document. Each should send a summary of its response to the USCCB by 8 April. The USCCB will then summarize the summaries and send that to the synod secretariat in May. The Synod on Synodality will conclude with Second General Session in October 2024.

Pope Francis does not want this synod to be just a bunch of folks producing documents on issues such as same-sex blessings and women's ordination. In his homily at the First Session's opening mass (10 Oct. 2023), he said (referencing Mk 10:17-21), "Celebrating a Synod means walking on the same road, walking together. Let us look at Jesus. First, he *encounters* the rich man on the road; he then *listens* to his questions, and finally he helps him



Fr. Leo Hausmann divulges
"Everything I Know About the
Synod."

discern what he must do to inherit eternal life. *Encounter, listen and discern.* I would like to reflect on these three verbs that characterize the Synod. ...Encounter and listening are not ends in themselves, leaving everything just as it was before. ...The Synod is a process of...discernment...that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God. ...That word...guides the Synod, preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political gathering, a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Spirit...[calling us] to empty ourselves...and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time. And the direction in which he wants to lead us."

Jackie Schnittgrund was our postprandial "**Sage on Stage**" speaker, distilling her lifetime of choral experience into:

Sales advice: Involve everyone possible in your music program. Invite every singer you hear or hear of; ask current singers to invite other singers. Add instruments where available. Go outside your church ("And if they're from another denomination, or even agnostic, that's okay. You're a salesperson for Jesus Christ"). Contact area school music directors, get names of promising players, and find/create musical parts they can play in your church services.

Raising money: "Have a talent show! A silent auction! A bake sale!"
Cultivate donors: "Every parish has a rich Catholic." Persistence: if a request is turned down, re-request it "three times a year, every year, until you get a 'Yes.'" She paused. "So whaddaya have to lose by doin' that? A little pride? Pshaw! You're a salesperson for Jesus Christ."

Choir advice: "Know your [choral] score...be organized...delegate."
Delegating saves you work and gets other people involved. Reread yearly, "Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship" (USCCB, 2007); available <https://ascensionpress.com/products/sing-to-the-lord-music-in-divine-worship>. "Never settle for mediocrity. Never. Not that you're not going to *do* it, but don't *settle* for it." To build well-rounded choral skills, focus on a few at a time, adding new ones each year as old ones are somewhat mastered. "Every year, have a 'stretch' piece" – a difficult, worthwhile piece you start working on months before you sing it. Don't lecture; wherever possible, fix problems by having singers sing. Compliment, be supportive. "Above all, the director is the model for compassion, love, and caring."

Inspiration: "You know, beauty is of God. ...Believe in the beauty of listening...to the beauty that creates intimacy with God. How many times have you been at a funeral, and they cry [at your singing]. You must be convinced that what you do can make a difference in people's lives and their relationship with Jesus Christ." Above all: "Love what you're doing." It's contagious.

The last session of the day was a **group discussion on "The Seven Deadly Sins for Music Ministry Members"** (article by M. D. Ridge, in *Today's Liturgy*, "Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2018, Year B" issue).

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Jackie Schnittgrund, "Sage on
Stage" speaker.

Riffing off the catechismal Seven Deadly Sins (anger, covetousness, envy, gluttony, lust, pride, and sloth), Ridge created a personal list of “deadly sins” for participants in music ministry: Gossip, Arrogance, Envy, Lateness, Laziness, Helplessness, and “Spreading your germs.” Feedback from the various group tables included:



Small groups discuss “The Seven Deadly Sins for Music Ministry Members.”

Gossip: Gossip can destroy not only the choir but the congregation. The larger the group, the greater the opportunity to gossip. Deal with the gossip in a non-alienating way (e.g., *don’t*, as Ridge suggests, “respond with ‘I don’t mean to be rude, but I don’t listen to gossip’”). Instead, approach with love, avoid judging, re-direct gossipy comments, pray for the gossip. sTailor your reaction to the specific person(s)/situation. Directors: watch yourself – you’re a role model.

Arrogance: Directors: when everybody seems to think you walk on water, ask God to help you remember that you don’t. Spend time in prayer/Adoration. Listen to – even seek – the input of those under you. Privately tell the talented singer/.excellent sightreader who “doesn’t need” to come to rehearsals that their presence is needed BECAUSE of their gifts (others lean on/learn from them).

Envy: Gifts/talents are never equally distributed. Don’t be threatened by others’ talent or brains; freely acknowledge their contributions (and NEVER take credit for someone else’s idea). Spend personal time with God; stay grounded on “Why am I here?” “How can I help others?” Directors: acknowledge less-talented members; constantly strive to create/maintain an atmosphere where each person knows they are seen and valued.

Lateness: Directors: reward the punctual by beginning rehearsals on time, no matter who/how many are absent. There are always warmups/parts/sections/something you can work on with the people at hand. Think with your heart; lateness may be due to difficult circumstances. Communicate. Everyone: if you must be late/absent, give advance notice.

Laziness: Work to keep up with the group; practice music at home. Directors: choose music that challenges your musicians without discouraging them. Emphasize (e.g., via warmups) posture and engaging the full body in song.

Helplessness: Study and learn more about music (e.g., how to read music), more about liturgy, etc., via other members, internet, documents. Directors: micro-teach in rehearsals: mention phrasing, dynamics, musical terms, text meaning, etc. as appropriate. Promote self-help sources (sight-singing apps, etc.).

Spreading your germs: Singers’ bodies are their instruments. Small choirs can distance themselves. Directors: Keep tissues, cough drops available. Engage in long-distance planning so each piece is sung over the course of several rehearsals (minimizes the harm of missing a rehearsal). Good communication co-opts problems. Make audio links/recordings and/or print files available so singers can practice at home.

The Winter Meeting ended with Closing Prayer led by musicians from St. Therese.

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NPM 2024 Calendar of Events

- Date:** April 27, 2024
Event: Spring NPM Meeting
Location: St. Michael's Church, Hermosa
Topics: Mass Parts Showcase (*featuring choral groups from across the diocese*); Sage on Stage (*Chantry Nelson*); Panel Discussion on 'Successful Working Relationships Between Pastor and Music Minister'; 'Selecting Hymns to Match Readings of the Day' (*Chantry Nelson*)
- Date:** TBD (*tentative July 2024*)
Event: Celebration of Hymns – an interdenominational gathering of music ministers and concert for the community. A free-will offering will be taken to support a local charitable organization in Rapid City.
Location: Rapid City (host church TBD)
Information: Stay tuned for upcoming communications on music selections, rehearsal schedules. This event will replace our regularly-scheduled summer Chapter meeting.
- Date:** TBD
Event: Fall NPM Meeting / St. Cecilia Banquet
Location: TBD (tentatively, St. Francis of Assisi, Sturgis)
Topics: tentatively: Presentation on GIRM; Music Reading Sessions; Getting Your Congregation to Sing

If you have any upcoming special music events in your parish or in your community that involve fellow NPM members, email Bonnie Josten (bonnie.josten@gmail.com) with event information, so we can add it to our calendar.

We encourage all Rapid City Diocese music ministers and clergy to attend quarterly NPM meetings at which education, prayer and fellowship are the focal points. For more information about the Rapid City Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians, go to our website (www.npmrc.org) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter).

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FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS RAPID CITY CHAPTER  
BY GOING TO: [NPMRC.ORG](http://NPMRC.ORG)  
OR FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK.COM/NPMRAPIDCITYCHAPTER](https://FACEBOOK.COM/NPMRAPIDCITYCHAPTER)

AND THE NATIONAL BY GOING TO:  
[NPM.ORG](http://NPM.ORG)



**There's more! Scroll down for details of this summer's NATIONAL CONVENTION!**



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**Save the dates!**  
**Monday-Thursday July 8-11**

## **2024 NPM National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri**



**You're invited to Kansas City!**  
**Here are a few sneak peeks of what  
you can expect in 2024:**

- Excellent concerts featuring some of the finest pipe organs in the United States
- Celebration of Paul French, NPM's 2024 Pastoral Musician of the Year
- A vibrant convention experience, made possible in part by the NPM Chapter of Greater Kansas City (Kansas City/St. Joseph, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas)
- An NPM-exclusive \$159/night hotel rate at the convention hotel site

*Visit [NPM.org](https://www.npm.org) to learn more*

**July 8-11, 2024**

**Sheraton Kansas City Hotel  
at Crown Center  
Kansas City, Missouri**



**Fountains  
of Faith**  
47TH ANNUAL NPM NATIONAL CONVENTION  
JULY 8-11, 2024 | KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

### **Join the National Association of Pastoral Musicians in Kansas City**



#### **Who we are: NPM**

The National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) fosters the art of musical liturgy. The members of NPM serve the Catholic Church in the United States as clergy, musicians, liturgists, and other leaders of prayer.

#### **You're Invited: An Afternoon for Clergy**

**Tuesday, July 9, 2024  
Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center**

Join clergy colleagues from around the country for an afternoon dedicated to considering some of the liturgical issues of interest to bishops, priests, and deacons. The afternoon will feature two sessions just for clergy and will conclude with a panel consisting of both lay people and clergy focused on the importance of strong relationships between liturgical musicians and clergy.

*Fee: Free for full convention registrants; \$25 for retreat-only participants*

Clergy/musician duo discounts are available for the 2024 NPM Convention. Learn more about the Convention and Afternoon for Clergy by scanning the QR code or visiting [npm.org](https://www.npm.org).



## **Fountains of Faith**

47TH ANNUAL NPM NATIONAL CONVENTION  
JULY 8-11, 2024 | KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

**Learn more about the  
2024 Convention here:**



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#### **About the 2024 Convention**

Join us July 8-11 at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center (2345 McGee St, Kansas City, MO 64108) for 4 days of learning, prayer, networking, and music.

Highlights include Plenum addresses by:

- Rev. R. Bruce Cinquegrani, DMIn
- Rawn Harbor
- Jan Kraybill

And feature insightful sessions and events such as:

- A special afternoon for clergy
- The National Catholic Handbell Festival
- A concert at the famous Kauffman Center

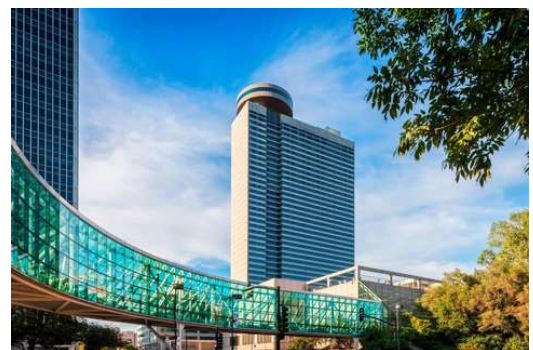
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**Sheraton  
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**Serving the life and mission of the Church through fostering the art of musical liturgy in Catholic worshipping communities.**